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**The Sunday After the Epiphany:  
The Baptism of our Lord Jesus Christ**  
*(Grigory Gagarin, c 1840 – 1850)*

## From Father Douglas

Dear People of St Andrew's,

I hope you are doing well. Today is the Feast of the Epiphany. Happy Three Kings Day to you!

In preparation for my departure at the end of this month, I thought it would be helpful to outline the diocese's policy on leaving well—that is, the expectations it has for priests (and the parishes they serve) after they have left a parish. This is always a time of transition, but it is also a season of new life and new growth. To this end, the relationship between a priest and the members of the parish needs to change so that all may fully partake of the grace, hope and promise of Christ that lay before them.

In this vein, the diocese has established the following boundaries:

- For the wellbeing of all parties, relationships between the priest and parishioners should be brought to an appropriate close
- The outgoing priest cannot participate, in any way, in the selection of the new rector
- After departing the parish, the priest can no longer function as priest or pastor to any parishioners; this means, among other things, that the priest cannot officiate at baptisms, weddings or funerals of those affiliated with the parish
- After departing the parish, the priest cannot attend any official parish function and must avoid social contact with former parishioners

These requirements may seem difficult and perhaps even a bit onerous, and that is understandable. Some pastoral and social relationships between parishioners and a priest are deep and very fulfilling. When a priest departs a parish, however, it is a time of transition to new roles ... to new realities ... and to new hopes. It is an especially fertile time for the work of the Holy Spirit, both in the parish the priest is leaving and the one the priest is joining: a time to take stock, to wonder, to imagine and to discern. If a priest continues to engage with former parishioners, these holy explorations may stall or grow complicated.

Jim and I have loved being here at St Andrew's. During our time with you, we've formed good friendships, shared many wonderful times and been welcomed with kindness and love. We will be sad to leave a parish full of people we so like and admire, and we'll miss you all terribly. You will be in our hearts forever, and I will continue to pray for you all every day, just as I have throughout my ministry with you.

Despite our love for you—nay, *because* of our love for you—and for the good of all, Jim and I will be observing these new boundaries following our departure, to provide as much space as possible for the wonderful and surprising work the Spirit will be doing, both here and in San Diego. We're committed to these healthy next steps, and we hope you will understand our abiding by this important policy.

Take good care, and may God continue to bless the work of the Kingdom you are doing.

In the peace and love of Christ,  
Douglas+

[Frdouglas.sak@gmail.com](mailto:Frdouglas.sak@gmail.com)

860-592-0171 (rectory, and *also* rings on mobile)

## This Week at St Andrew's

Sunday, 08 January :: 8:30 am

**Holy Eucharist: *The Baptism of Our Lord Jesus Christ*** (spoken)

Sunday, 08 January :: 9:15 am  
Choir Rehearsal

Sunday, 08 January :: 10:30 am  
Church School

Sunday, 08 January :: 10:30 am  
**Holy Eucharist: *The Baptism of Our Lord Jesus Christ*** (with music)  
*(in-person and live-streamed)*

Sunday, 08 January :: 11:40 am  
Coffee Hour

Monday, 09 January :: 11:00 am  
Bible Study: *The Gospel of Luke*

Monday, 09 January :: 8:00 pm  
LGBTQ+ A.A. meeting

Tuesday, 10 January :: 4:30 pm  
Officers Meeting

Wednesday, 11 January :: 6:00 pm  
**Mid-week Holy Eucharist**

Thursday, 12 January :: 7:00 pm  
A.A. meeting

Thursday, 12 January :: 7:00 pm  
Al-Anon meeting (Old Vestry Room)

## Mark Your Calendars for These Events...

**Details about many of these events can be found later  
in this issue of the *Epistle***

**Thursday, 26 January, 6:00 pm**

*Parish Potluck Supper and Farewell to Fr Douglas & Jim*

**Sunday, 05 February**

*One Eucharist at 10:00 am & the Parish's Annual Meeting*

**Parish Potluck & Farewell:  
Thursday, 26 January, 6:00 pm**



Please mark your calendars! There will be a Parish Potluck on **Thursday, 26 January, at 6:00 pm**. St Andrew's will bid a fond farewell to Father Douglas and Jim. Bring your favorite dish to share. Wine and other beverages will be provided. Enjoy delicious food and fellowship as we lift a glass to toast them.

-- Katherine Almquist, Director of Hospitality

## Save the Date: Parish Annual Meeting, 05 February



On 05 February 2023, we hold our annual meeting. Please plan to attend. Canon Tim Hodapp and Amber Page Gehr of the Connecticut diocese will be with us, to start us on the path of calling a new rector. (We will *not* be searching for a priest-in-charge whose term as such would be limited to three years). The preliminary schedule on this Sunday following Douglas' final Sunday with us follows:

1. *There will be one service at 10:00 am*, at which Canon Hodapp will preside and preach.
2. Immediately following the service, Tim and Amber will address the parish about the rector search, the steps we will need to take and the support we will get from the diocese.
3. Immediately following that, we will hold our annual meeting, at which time we will elect a new class for the vestry, among other business.

Please make every effort to attend the 10:00 am service on February 5<sup>th</sup> and what follows. Most of us have a lot to learn about the process of calling a rector. In the meantime, your wardens and vestry will do their best to keep everyone informed.

## Good News: FISH Transportation Is Restarting



Kent's volunteer transportation program has started up again.

FISH volunteers provide transportation to **medical and dental appointments *only, outside of Kent***; and to medical and dental appointments, the IGA, hairdresser, Food Bank, banks, etc within Kent. Medical appointments take priority over other kinds of rides.

FISH clients must be ambulatory and able to get in and out of a vehicle on their own. The volunteer drivers are all vaccinated and ask that users be vaccinated as well. FISH provides rides when family members, neighbors, the NW Transit District bus and other options are not available—and when volunteers are available. Rides are provided Monday through Friday before 5:00 pm and not on holidays.

**Rides must be scheduled as early as possible and definitely at least three-to-five days before the need. To schedule a ride, call Carol at Kent Fabrics at 860 927-3640. *The best time to call is a weekday morning.***

For longer and more distant appointments, FISH will encourage use of the Northwest Transit District Dial-a-Ride program (860-489-2535).

## St Andrew's Current COVID Status

**THE PARISH IS OPEN.**

We have now resumed all of our usual pre-COVID practices except the sharing of the Common Cup; we distribute the Wine in individual portions.

We will continue to livestream our 10:30 liturgy on Sundays and our mid-week services.

## Help Support the Kent Food Bank



Please help our parish family continue to support of the Kent Food Bank by sending a check in any amount to:

Kent Community Fund  
P O Box 262  
Kent, CT 06757  
*memo: Food Bank*

These funds will be used to purchase vouchers for local families in need, under the direction of Kent's new Social Services Director, Samantha Hasenflue. In addition, it is useful for the Director to have IGA gift cards to give to families who are in need. Please consider purchasing a card, for \$25 or \$50, and taking it to Samantha's office in Town Hall or dropping it in the donations basket in the Narthex. (You can also place it in the offering plate, marked for the Food Bank.)

The Kent Food Bank also accepts food donations. They are especially in need of staples such as **beans, rice, tea, coffee, sugar, nuts, hot & cold breakfast cereals, peanut butter, jellies, jams and tuna**. Make certain that the 'Best by ...' dates are not past! Please remember that the Food Bank accepts pet foods as well!

You may drop off food items on Fridays from 10:00 am - 12:00 noon in the back of the Community House on Main Street. You may also place

donations in the basket in the church Narthex or in the bin in the breezeway at the rear of the Rectory.

## Lections for this Week

### **The First Sunday After the Epiphany** *Year A*

Isaiah 42:1-9  
Psalm 29  
Acts 10:34-43  
Matthew 3:13-17



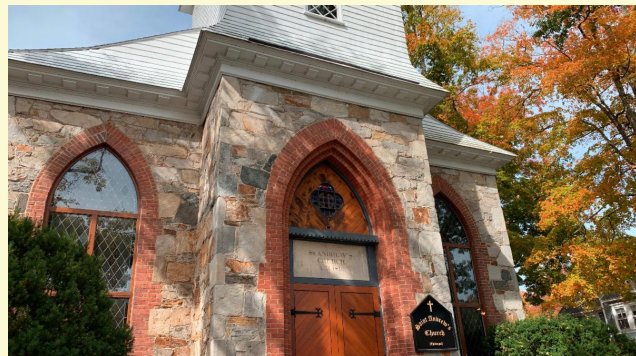
## Past Services and Homilies

Please click on the link below in order  
to view  
past services on YouTube and to read homilies from previous Sundays  
located on our website.

[Homilies and Past Services](#)

## Worship Services

**-Sunday-**  
**Holy Eucharist**  
8.30 a.m. & 10.30 a.m.  
(Rite I at 8.30, First Sundays)  
In person  
(10.30 a.m. available live  
stream on YouTube)



**-Wednesday-**  
**Holy Eucharist**  
6.00 p.m.



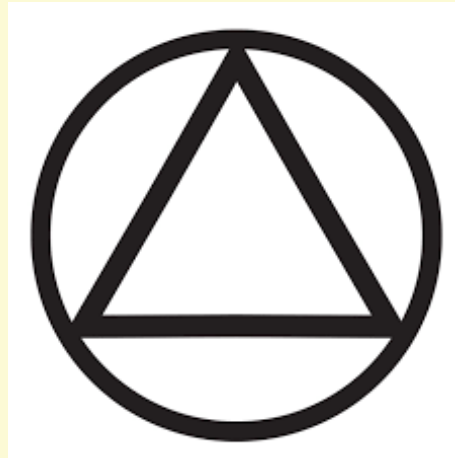
**-Holy Days-**  
**Holy Eucharist**  
9.00 a.m.



## 12 Step Meetings

**Mondays**  
LGBTQ+ A.A.  
(Parish House)

**Thursdays**  
Al-Anon. at 7.00 p.m.  
(Old Vestry Room)  
A.A. at 7:00 pm  
(Parish House)



## Parish Staff

**The Rev Douglas S  
Worthington**  
Priest in Charge  
[frdouglas.sak@gmail.com](mailto:frdouglas.sak@gmail.com)  
860-592-0171

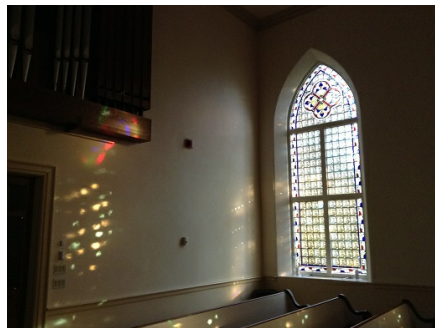
**Susan Guse**  
Organist & Director of Choirs

**Ron Marasco, Ph.D.**  
Director of Education

**KC Compton**  
Parish Administrator

**Jane Farnol**  
Church School Leader

**Joan I Cassel**  
Financial Secretary





**Randy Osolin**  
Verger

**Gloria Contreras**  
Sexton



St Andrew's Church  
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Kent, CT 06757

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saintandrewskent@gmail.com

Parish office open every day except Friday and Saturday from 10 am- 5 pm

Visit St Andrew's website at  
[www.standrewskentct.org](http://www.standrewskentct.org)

The Episcopal Church in Connecticut  
[www.episcopalct.org/](http://www.episcopalct.org/)

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